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RURAL DISTRICT OF
MARLBOROUGH & RAMSBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1953

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MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year 1953 on the public health of the District.

The population of the District as estimated by the Registrar General was 11060 in 1953 ; and the excess of births (170) over deaths (105) was 65, which gives a rate for natural increase of 5.9 per 1000 population.

There were 170 (82 male and 88 female) births which gives a rate per 1000 population of 18.6, corrected for purposes of comparison. The birth rate for the administrative county during 1953 was 16.4 and that for England and Wales for the same period, 15.5 respectively, per 1000 population.

The death rate for the District based on 105 (54 male and 51 female) deaths corrected for comparability was 9.1 per 1000 population. The England and Wales death rate was 11.4 and that for the administrative county 10.7 per 1000 population for the same period.

There were 57 deaths between age 65 and 83 years and 17 between that age and 90 years. The greatest age at death was 90 years for both sexes.

The death rate for infants under one year (infant mortality rate) was 35.3 per 1000 live births during 1953 ; corresponding figures for the administrative county were 24.1 and for England and Wales 26.8 per 1000 live births. There were six such deaths, four under four weeks of age.

The mean infant mortality rate during the period 1944 to 1953 was 38.1 per 1000 live births, based on averages over the ten year period of 188.8 live births and 7.2 infant deaths under one year of age.

Among the death rates for special causes, tuberculosis with one death gave a rate of 0.1 per 1000 population ; pneumonia with 8 deaths gave a rate of 0.8 per 1000 population ; and cancer based on 12 deaths was 1.1 per 1000 population.

The proportional mortality rates for the principal causes of death were, heart and circulatory diseases other than coronary disease, 40.9 per cent ; coronary disease 9.5 per cent ; vascular lesions of the nervous system 10.5 per cent ; pneumonia and bronchitis 11.4 per cent ; cancer 11.4 per cent ; and tuberculosis 0.9 per cent.

There were no deaths from influenza, infective disease or as the result of motor vehicle accidents.

Notifications of infective diseases numbered 264 which comprise mainly, dysentery (3) whooping cough (56) pneumonia (20) measles (166) and food poisoning (1). There were in addition 2 notifications for puerperal fever, 2 erysipelas, and one each in respect of scarlet fever, poliomyelitis, and malaria (contracted abroad).

The *incidence rates* of notifiable diseases in the Rural District during 1953 per 1000 population were, dysentery 0.3, whooping cough 5.1, pneumonia 1.8, measles 15.0, food poisoning 0.1, scarlet fever 0.1, and erysipelas 0.2. Corresponding rates in England and Wales give 3.6 for whooping cough, 0.8 for pneumonia and 0.2 for food poisoning. The rate per 1000 total births of puerperal fever in the Rural District was 11.4, while that for England and Wales was 18.2 on the same basis.

Diphtheria immunization figures for 1953 show that 127 children under 15 years of age were inoculated primarily, as against 166 in 1952 and 90 in 1951. Of this number 114 were immunized below 5 years of age, 64 of whom were under one year old.

Other relevant data are to be found in the body of this report which is followed by the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health,

May, 1954.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

K. F. HUDSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts Combined Districts, viz. Amesbury R.D., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough M.B., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office. He holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare services for which it is mainly responsible.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, with whose duties those of the Sanitary Inspector are complementary, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee and the Housing Committee of the District Council.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	94511
Number of Parishes	....	....	....	....	....	25
Population mid-1953, as estimated by the Registrar						
General	....	....	....	Total		11060
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....		3205
Number of new houses erected in 1953 :—						
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....		23
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....		64
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....		£50119
Sum represented by a Penny rate (estimated)	....	....	....	....		£203

VITAL STATISTICS

				M.	F.	Total
Live Births	....	....	....	82	88	170
Legitimate	....	....	....	77	82	159
Illegitimate	....	....	....	5	6	11
Still Births	....	....	....	2	2	4
Legitimate	....	....	....	1	2	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	—	1
Live Birth Rate	....	....	....			18.6
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales						15.5
Number of deaths from all causes	....	....	....	54	51	105
Death Rate —	....	....	....			9.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	....	....			11.4
Deaths of Infants under one year :—						
Total	....	....	....	2	4	6
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	3	5
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	1	1
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births						35.3
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales						26.8

NOTE :

The number of births, still-births, and deaths are those registered during 1953 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,

	1953		
	Marlborough	Administrative	England
	and Ramsbury	County	and Wales
	R.D.		
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.)	18.6	16.4	15.5
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.)	9.1	10.7	11.4
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 live births)	35.3	24.1	26.8
Death Rates—Special Causes (per 1000 popn.) :—			
Tuberculosis	0.1	0.1	0.2
Cancer	1.1	1.6	—
Pneumonia	0.8	0.6	0.5

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1944-1953

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population	9844	9563	9570	9515	9926	10028	10050	10990	9940	11060
Live Births	211	198	168	220	204	194	171	172	180	170
Still Births	4	6	2	2	2	0	2	1	3	4
Total Deaths	115	143	114	144	118	132	125	133	114	105
Infant Deaths	16	9	9	9	8	7	3	3	2	6
Tuberculosis Deaths	3	2	7	5	3	5	2	2	3	1
Cancer Deaths	13	24	10	32	19	15	22	23	14	12
Pneumonia Deaths	7	7	3	3	5	12	8	10	8	8

The figures given above represent the events in the ten-yearly period, 1944-1953

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of infective disease notifications was 264 in 1953 as compared with 135 in 1952 and 273 in the previous year. The diseases showing the greatest incidence were measles (166) whooping cough (56) and pneumonia (20). Other important notifications were dysentery (3) erysipelas (2) and puerperal fever (2).

The month of greatest incidence was June with 65 notifications; there were 42 in February, 40 in January, 22 in May, 21 in March, and 19 in April. One case of poliomyelitis was notified in October.

There were no deaths from infective diseases, other than one from tuberculosis, during 1953, in the Rural District.

TUBERCULOSIS

Twelve cases of tuberculosis (nine respiratory) were notified during the year.

The one death from this cause was due to the lung form of the disease.

Three notifications were received in 1953 of tuberculous adenitis during February, August and November, in respect of persons aged 45, 40, and 8 years respectively. There is no indication of the origin of the disease, whether human or bovine.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

The County Medical Officer's department notifies mothers when the infant is three months old, and Health Visitor 'follow up' acts as a further stimulus, and also to ascertain whether consent is withheld, and to supplement information about infants who may have been vaccinated but not recorded and so on. Birth notifications are used as a basis for conducting this enquiry, and the register is kept up to date by record cards returned by the family doctor, supplemented by the Health Visitors' enquiries.

127 primary inoculations were made against diphtheria in 1953 of whom 64 were under 1 year of age, 126 under 10 years of age, and one between 10 and 15 years of age. There were in addition 177 re-inoculations during the year. There were 170 live births in the Rural District in 1953.

The following numbers were primarily immunized against diphtheria during the last ten years.

<i>Age Group (Years)</i>	<i>Year</i>										<i>T't'l</i>
	1944	'45	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	
Under 5	97	152	98	101	149	77	94	65	142	114	1089
5—15	8	44	16	47	74	53	3	25	24	13	307
Total	105	196	114	148	223	130	97	90	166	127	1396

79 infants (under one year) out of 170 live births were primarily vaccinated in the Rural District in 1953.

HOUSING

The work of the health department under this heading has not materially changed and again included investigations in connection with overcrowding and the allocation of housing accommodation. There have been in addition specific calls on the staff in connection with statutory work under the Housing Acts. In common with other localities, sub-standard housing has continued in use for want of adequate accommodation and the supervision of unsatisfactory housing is a prominent feature of the departmental work.

The position has improved insofar as 64 houses were built by the Council and 23 by private enterprise during 1953, and this forms a substantial proportion of the total number of houses completed since 1945 which was 89 by private enterprise and 201 by the Council. Thus 87 houses were provided in 1953 out of a total of 290 houses built since 1945.

The demand for housing has in no way relaxed.

WATER SUPPLY

The six public supplies in the Rural District are adequate in quality and quantity. These are chlorinated and periodic laboratory analysis gives satisfactory results.

The proportion of the population of the Rural District whose water is supplied from these six public sources is something under one-half, but this figure is increasing steadily as more connections are made and new supplies are brought into use. The public supply has been recently extended to the Parish of Froxfield, and work on the Axford and Mil-denhall extension has now (May 1954) been approved.

SEWERAGE

It is gratifying to note that the Rural District Council has now (May 1954) received the Ministry's approval for the installation of a sewerage system at Aldbourne, where at the present time the methods of disposal of excreta are as unsatisfactory as they could be.

Connections continue to be made to the now established sewerage system at Ramsbury.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1953

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Whooping cough	-	-	1	2	-	26	20	3	3	1	-	-	56
Measles	27	41	18	11	17	37	8	6	1	-	-	-	166
Pneumonia	10	1	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	20
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Total	40	43	21	19	22	65	29	10	6	4	2	4	265

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1953

Disease	Total	Age (years)											Un- known
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Whooping cough	56	2	2	6	8	4	21	12	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	166	7	6	11	14	20	93	9	1	1	1	1	-
Pneumonia	20	2	4	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	2	3	1
Scarlet fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Food poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-
Total	253	11	12	18	23	25	117	24	2	5	5	7	1
													3

* Contracted abroad

FOOD SUPERVISION

It may generally be stated that the standard of hygiene was satisfactory during the year. This is of the greatest importance in view of the greatly increased incidence throughout the country in recent years of diseases traceable to food contamination.

Details are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector in regard to the general supervision of food, and premises are tabulated by type and parish. Reference is also made to ice cream (which is sold pre-packed) meat which is all slaughtered outside the Rural District, the method of disposal of condemned foodstuffs, to the inspections carried out under the Food and Drugs Act (14) and to the number of inspections made in respect of food premises, including dairies.

It may be noted that milk is frequently sampled and submitted to both bacteriological and biological tests.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (47)

Two elderly persons, husband and wife, in need of care and attention were removed under the provisions of the act, the husband to a welfare home and the wife to Part III accommodation to the care of the Regional Hospital Board.

CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1953

					M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	1	—	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	....	....	....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	....	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	—	—	—
8	Measles	....	....	....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	....	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	....	....	—	—	—
11	„ „ lung-bronchus	....	....	....	1	1	2
12	„ „ breast	....	....	....	—	2	2
13	„ „ uterus	....	....	....	—	3	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....	....	....	5	—	5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	....	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	....	....	....	—	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	....	5	6	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....	....	7	3	10
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	....	—	3	3
20	Other heart disease	....	....	....	17	16	33
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....	....	1	6	7
22	Influenza	....	....	....	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	....	....	....	5	3	8
24	Bronchitis	....	....	....	3	1	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	....	—	1	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	....	1	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	....	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	....	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	....	—	1	1
31	Congenital malformations	....	....	....	1	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	....	4	4	8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	....	—	—	—
34	All other accidents	....	....	....	2	—	2
35	Suicide	....	....	....	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	—	—	—
Total all causes					54	51	105

MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1953

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fifth Annual Report on the work carried out in my department during 1953.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the other members of the staff for their help and assistance during the past year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH F. HUDSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

During the year houses were erected and occupied in the following parishes.

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>Private Houses</i>	<i>Council Houses</i>
Aldbourne	1	8
Avebury	4	2
Broad Hinton	4	12
Froxfield	2	—
Great Bedwyn	1	8
Mildenhall	3	—
Ogbourne St. Andrew	1	—
Ogbourne St. George	2	24
Ramsbury	4	—
Shalbourne	1	—
West Overton	—	6
Winterbourne Bassett	—	4
Total	23	64

The number of new houses erected by the Council in 1953 was high being four times the number erected in 1952. As stated before, the figures show only the number of houses completed in a year and give no indication of the houses started or in course of erection. A fairer way would be to say that 1953 is above average for the period since 1945 which is 25 per annum.

There is a considerable space of time between the consideration of building on a particular site and the occupation of the houses due to the various formalities that require to be satisfied.

The figure for private houses was also high being twice the annual average of 11 for the period.

The following table shows the total number of new houses erected since 1945 by both the Council and private enterprise. It will be seen that the houses are fairly well distributed throughout the whole district.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses erected</i>		
	<i>Private Houses</i>	<i>Council Houses</i>	<i>Total</i>
Aldbourne	6	36	42
Avebury	6	2	8
Baydon	2	4	6
Berwick Bassett	2	—	2
Broad Hinton	6	12	18
Chilton Foliat	1	8	9
East Kennett	—	4	4
Fyfield	1	—	1
Froxfield	2	—	2
Grafton	9	10	19
Great Bedwyn	3	27	30
Ham	5	—	5
Mildenhall	14	—	14
Ogbourne St. Andrew	5	—	5
Ogbourne St. George	5	24	29
Preshute	1	—	1
Ramsbury	11	38	49
Shalbourne	4	6	10
West Overton	2	22	24
Winterbourne Bassett	4	8	12
Total	89	201	290

There are 240 applicants still on the waiting list and from experience it appears that although you satisfy the requirements of a few of the applicants, more particularly in the large villages, there still remains approximately the same number of applicants on the list. So the necessity of house building by the Council or otherwise will continue for some time to come.

During 1953 no Demolition Orders were made but three cottages on which Orders were already operative were demolished. Further, a block of three cottages was demolished by the owner without the need for any formal action.

In June the Council decided to make grants for the improvement of houses under the Housing Acts. The number of applications received up to the end of the year was five.

At the January meeting of 1954 the Council agreed to the appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector and I hope to make a good start on the Housing Survey during the coming year.

WATER SUPPLIES

There are six piped Public Water supplies in the district.

AVEBURY SUPPLY

The scheme supplies water to the parishes of Preshute, Fyfield,

West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton. The pumping station is situated at Clatford and pumps the water from the lower chalk 150 feet deep to a reservoir on Totterdown. There is also a balancing tank erected at Broad Hinton. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station. The number of properties connected to the main continues to increase.

BAYDON SUPPLY

This supplies the parish of Baydon and the water is obtained in bulk from the Hungerford Rural District Council. Practically the whole of the parish is connected to the mains. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

BEDWYN SUPPLY

This supplies the parishes of Great and Little Bedwyn. The pumping station is situated midway between the two villages and pumps the water from the lower chalk to a reservoir in Chisbury Ring. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station. Water is supplied to nearly all Great Bedwyn, part of Little Bedwyn and is taken over the border to a farm and several cottages at St. Katharine's in the Pewsey Rural District.

OGBOURNE SUPPLY

The water from this supply is purchased in bulk from the Swindon Corporation from their pumping station at Whitefields, Ogbourne St. George. The water is boosted to a reservoir on the downs and gravitates to the two parishes of Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George and to the military camp. The majority of the properties in both parishes are connected to the mains. The water is chlorinated at Whitefields.

RAMSBURY SUPPLY

This supplies the parishes of Aldbourne, Chilton Foliat and Ramsbury. The water is pumped from the greensand at Ramsbury to a reservoir to the north of the village. The great majority of premises are connected to this supply. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

SAVERNAKE SUPPLY

The water for this supply is purchased in bulk from the Borough of Marlborough. The main runs from the top of Postern Hill through the front of Savernake Forest to Iron Gates and supplies Savernake Hospital, two farms and several cottages. The water is chlorinated at the Pumping Station.

Towards the end of the year the work commenced on the laying of a water main from the Ramsbury Supply to the village of Froxfield. Some progress was also made on the Shalbourne/Grafton scheme and the extension of a main to Axford and Mildenhall.

The following table shows the properties and population supplied from the Public Water Supplies. The figures are steadily increasing year by year.

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>Direct to Houses</i>		<i>Standpipes</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Aldbourne	302	906	—	—
Avebury	95	285	—	—
Baydon	70	210	—	—
Berwick Bassett	1	3	—	—
Broad Hinton	50	150	—	—
Chilton Foliat	56	168	—	—
East Kennet	9	27	8	24
Fyfield	20	60	—	—
Great Bedwyn	222	666	—	—
Little Bedwyn	43	129	15	45
Ogbourne				
St. Andrew	50	150	—	—
Ogbourne				
St. George	85	255	—	—
Preshute	1	3	—	—
Ramsbury	355	1065	—	—
West Overton	95	285	—	—
Winterbourne				
Bassett	33	99	—	—
Winterbourne				
Monkton	11	33	—	—
Total	1498	4494	23	69

Samples for chemical and bacteriological examination were taken at various points on the mains during the year and the results are as follows :—

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Samples Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Slightly Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Not Satisfactory</i>
Avebury	12	11	1	0
Baydon	9	9	0	0
Bedwyn	22	17	5	0
Ogbourne	10	9	1	0
Ramsbury	14	10	2	2
Total	67	56	9	2

The cause of the slightly unsatisfactory samples from the Avebury and Ogbourne Supplies is not known. Subsequent sampling from each source was satisfactory.

The slightly unsatisfactory samples taken from the Bedwyn Supply were all taken before chlorination. There has been a tendency for this to happen at certain times of the year possibly due to the rise and fall of the subsoil water.

The two unsatisfactory and two slightly unsatisfactory samples from the Ramsbury Supply were taken from a length of main which was not used very much. After a thorough washout the samples were satisfactory.

The water in this area is all from chalk or the greensand below the chalk so there is no risk of plumbo-solvent action.

Bacteriological samples were taken from a number of private supplies and where these proved unsatisfactory the majority were connected to the Public Supply. In other cases advice was given on improving the existing supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Ramsbury is still the only village in the district provided with a sewerage scheme. While a considerable number of properties have been connected to the sewer not all have taken the opportunity. The majority of those that have been connected have been provided with a bath as well as a sink and water closet thus giving reasonable modern amenities.

The Council still continue to press the need for a similar scheme in Aldbourne. The County Council are in support and have informed the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of their opinion. The scheme has been worked out in full by the Council's engineers and only needs the word for the work to commence. I consider that the necessity for a sewerage scheme in Aldbourne is as great if not greater than was Ramsbury's need.

The provision of drainage to cottages by means of septic tanks continues steadily and this is by no means confined to owner/occupiers of properties but is being carried out to farm cottages. No doubt the farmers realise that the provision of a modernised cottage attracts the best labour.

The increase in the use of water caused by the provision of a piped water supply is creating and will create further difficulties with regard to drainage. The provision of a sewerage scheme would help but I cannot visualise these schemes being provided to all the villages.

REFUSE COLLECTION

There was no change in the system of refuse collection being a fortnightly collection to the ten most populated parishes and a four weekly one to the other parishes.

On a population basis this works out that 50% of the population receive a fortnightly collection.

The refuse is taken to a central tip at Knowle and tipped into dis-used gravel pits. This method has worked very well.

As stated in my previous reports it is hoped that early in the future the refuse will be collected from all parishes at least once a fortnight. This suggestion will not be possible without additional staff and another vehicle. There is already an increase in the time spent on baling waste paper.

Although I have stated this before I consider it requires stating again that the provision of a suitably constructed dustbin with a tight fitting lid and handles to all properties would materially assist in the collection of house refuse. It is much simpler for the men to empty one container rather than empty several buckets, boxes, etc. The saving of time would be appreciable over the day.

SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection and disposal of salvage continues to be of value to the Council. This salvage is collected at the same time as the household refuse and is placed in a trailer provided for that purpose.

The price of waste paper slightly increased towards the end of the year, although the amount received was nothing like that obtained during 1952. The quantity of waste paper collected, however, was considerably higher, being, in fact, a 25% increase.

The baling of this quantity of waste paper has, of course, a bearing on the time one of the men can spend at the refuse tip.

The following table shows the quantity of salvage sold for the years 1952 and 1953.

	1952						1953					
	<i>Weight</i>			<i>Value</i>			<i>Weight</i>			<i>Value</i>		
	T.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.	T.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.
Paper	41	13	2	37	17	9	52	8	2	250	0	3
Rags	1	7	2	30	8	8	1	6	1	26	7	2
Scrap Iron	10	4	1	35	15	11	12	17	0	46	6	7
Totals	53	5	1	438	2	4	66	11	3	322	14	0

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The campaign against rats and mice was continued by the inspection of properties, both business and private and the subsequent treatment when required.

At the end of the year it was found that it is possible, in future, to make a complete survey of the whole district in approximately six months, now that the Operator has settled down to the district.

While this does not include the inspection of all private dwelling houses it does include all farms and business premises. The inspection

of cottages here and a cottage there in a village provided sufficient information as to whether or not an infestation was present.

The treatment consisted of baiting with a mixture of warfarin and oatmeal, which proved remarkably successful. In fact, no case of failure was recorded.

All those properties requiring treatment which were not treated by the Council were dealt with by Servicing Companies or the Agricultural Executive Committee.

The following table gives a guide to the visits made during 1953.

	L.A.	P.	F.	B.	Total
No. of Inspections made	32	1599	212	227	2070
No. of Properties inspected	17	1478	186	197	1878
No. of properties infested by rats	17	354	54	26	451
No. of properties infested by mice	—	7	—	1	8
No. of treatments by Local Authority	17	361	10	17	405

Total number of visits made under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act—3,690.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Periodical inspections were made to various factories in the district, attention being paid to the provision of adequate and cleanly sanitary accommodation.

There are no large factories in the area, the largest being an agricultural Lime Works at Ogbourne St. George. The others consist of small business premises such as bakehouses, garages, etc.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There is a tendency for the number of individual caravan licences issued under section 269 of the public Health Act, 1936, to increase owing to the difficulty of obtaining a house.

The present number of licences is 18 and they are scattered throughout the district.

At present only two sites are licenced for the use of caravans, one being at Cadley and the other at Avebury.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

No slaughterhouses have been operating in this district since 1939.

The home killed meat is slaughtered at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse situated in Swindon.

MILK SUPPLIES

There are nine registrations under the various milk regulations and inspections are made of these premises from time to time. In most cases the milk is purchased already bottled from the Milk Marketing Board. The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 :—

Dealer's licences for retailing Tuberculin Tested milk—5.

Dealer's licences for retailing Pasteurised milk—4.

Supplementary licences for retailing Tuberculin Tested milk—4.

Supplementary licences for retailing Pasteurised milk—3.

OTHER FOODS

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Food</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Cooked Ham	108 lb.	Blown
Corned Beef	6 lb.	Blown
Various Tins	2½ lb.	Punctured and blown
	<hr/> 116½ lb. <hr/>	

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

In the case of fresh meat from Government slaughterhouses this is taken back by the Ministry of Food. With regard to other food this is collected by the refuse collection men at the normal times of collection. As the quantity is so small no risk is involved. No special examination of stock or consignments of food has been necessary during the past year.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in this district. All the retailed ice-cream is sold from pre-packed containers.

Nineteen visits were made to premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, during the year.

The manufacture of sausages takes place only at premises used in connection with butcher's shops.

The following table shows the number and distribution of the food premises in the district :—

Parish	Bakehouses	Butcher's Shops	Cafes	Food Traders	Game Licences	Ice-cream Regs.	Dairies	Public Houses	Preserved Food Manfs.
Aldbourne	4	2	1	9	—	3	—	5	3
Avebury	1	1	2	3	—	3	—	2	1
Baydon	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	—
Berkwick Bassett	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Broad Hinton	1	—	—	2	—	3	—	2	—
Buttermere	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chilton Foliat	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—
East Kennett	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Froxfield	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	—
Fyfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grafton	1	—	—	3	—	2	1	1	—
Great Bedwyn	1	1	1	6	1	5	—	2	1
Ham	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—
Little Bedwyn	—	—	1	3	1	1	2	1	—
Mildenhall	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Ogbourne St. Andrew	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
Ogbourne St. George	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	1
Preshute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ramsbury	2	1	2	9	1	5	—	6	2
Savernake	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Shalbourne	1	—	—	2	—	2	1	2	—
Tidcombe and Fosbury	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
West Overton	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	3	—
Winterbourne Bassett	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Winterbourne Monkton	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Total	15	6	10	55	3	34	6	37	9

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1953

Nuisances, including complaints	....	....	....	....	220
Housing Inspections	....	....	....	....	144
Tents, Vans and Sheds	....	....	....	....	9
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	45
Factory Inspections	....	....	....	....	15
Refuse Collection and Salvage	....	....	....	....	80
Milk and Dairies Premises	....	....	....	....	18
Food Premises	....	....	....	....	44
Bakehouse Inspections	....	....	....	....	30
Butcher's Shop Inspections	....	....	....	....	7
Water Analysis and Sampling	....	....	....	....	142
Inspection of New Drainage	....	....	....	....	304
Inspection of New Buildings	....	....	....	....	351
Town Planning	....	....	....	....	95
Petroleum Inspections	....	....	....	....	93
Council House Enquiries	....	....	....	....	95
Unclassified	30
Rats and Mice	2,078
Anthrax Investigations	7
Watercress Beds	1
					<hr/>
					3,808
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